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Extracts from Washington's Diary

EXTRACTS FROM WASHINGTON'S DIARY

EXTRACTS FROM WASHINGTON'S DIARY, KEPT
WHILE ATTENDING THE CONSTITUTIONAL CON-
VENTION OF 1787.

[The Philadelphia *Times* of July 31 last, published the following excerpts from the MS. Diary of Washington preserved in the Library of Congress, probably the rough notes from which the diary in the State Department was written. Extracts from the latter have been published by Sparks in his "Life and Times of Washington." It is a small volume about the size and appearance of a pocket memorandum book, containing seventy-eight pages, of which thirty-four cover his sojourn in Philadelphia. A few corrections of proper names have been made, and the annotations appended by the ED. PA. MAG.]

1787. *Friday*, 11 [*May*].—Set out before breakfast and rid 12 miles to Skirrets' Tavern when we baited and proceeded to the Ferry at Havredegrass to dinner. The wind being high and the weather squally I did not cross the river—frequent showers thro' the day with mists and sunshine alternating.

Saturday, 12.—Crossed the river early in the morning and breakfasted at the ferry house at the east side—Dined at the head of Elk and lodged at Wilmington—at the head of Elk Mr. [Francis] Corbin joined me and took a seat in my carriage to Wilmington.

Sunday, 13.—About nine o'clock Mr. Corbin and I set out dined at Chester where I was met by Gen'l's Mifflin, Knox and Varnum, Cols. Humphreys and Mentges and Majors Jackson and Nicholas—After dinner we proceeded for the city—at the Ferry (Gray's) was met by the Troop of City Light Horse by whom and a large concourse I was escorted to Mr. Houses.¹—After passing the artillery officers (who saluted) at the entrance of the city. On my arrival a peal

¹ Mrs. Mary House kept a boarding-house at the corner of Fifth and Market Streets.

was rung—and Mr. Robt. Morris and his lady again pressing me to lodge with them I had my baggage moved and took up my quarters at their house—After paying my respects to the President of the State, Dr. Franklin.

Monday, 14.—This being the day appointed for the meeting of the Convention such members of it as were in town assembled at the State House, where it was found that two States only were represented, viz., Virginia and Pennsylvania. Agreed to meet again to-morrow at 11 o'clock. Dined (in a family way) at Mr. Morris's and tk tea there.

Tuesday, 15.—Repaired to the State Ho. at the hour appointed. No more States represented, tho there were members (but not sufficient to form a quorum) from two or three others, viz., No. Carolina and Delaware, as also Jersey. Govr Randolph, of Virginia, came in to-day. Dined with the Society of the Cincinnati.

Wednesday, 16.—Only two States represented. Agreed to meet at — o'clock. Doctr McClurg, of Virginia, came in.¹ Dined at Doctr Franklin's. Drank Tea and spent the evg with Mr. John Penn.

Thursday, 17.—Mr. [Charles] Pinkney, of So. Carolina, coming in from New York, and Mr. Rutledge being here before, formed a representation from that State. Colonel Mason getting in this evening from Virginia, completed the whole number of this State in the delegation.

Friday, 18.—The State of New York was represented. Dined at a club at Grey's and drank tea at Mr. Morris', after that went with Mrs. Morris and some other ladies to hear a lady read at the College Hall.²

Saturday, 19.—No more States represented. Agreed to meet at 1 o'clock on Monday. Dined at Mr. Ingersoll's³ and spent the evening at home, going to bed soon.

¹ James McClurg took the place of Patrick Henry, declined.

² Mrs. O'Connell. "The Lecture to be read this Evening is a continuance of the Dissertation on Eloquence, which commenced in the first course: At the conclusion of which Solima of the Poet Hamet, translated by Sir William Jones, will be delivered."—*Pa. Packet*.

³ Jared Ingersoll, Esq., who, in 1785, lived on Market, near Fourth Street.

Sunday, 20.—Went into the country with Mr. and Mrs. Morris and dined at their place at the Hills; returned in the afternoon and drank Tea at Mr. Powel's.¹

Monday, 21.—Delaware State was represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's,² splendor shewn.

Tuesday, 22.—North Carolina represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Morris's.

Wednesday, 23.—No more States represented. Rid to Gen'l Mifflin's to breakfast, after which, in company with him, Mr. Madison, Mr. Rutledge and others, crossed the Schuylkill above the Falls, called Mr. Peter's, Mr. Penn's and Mr. Hamilton's, and repaired at the hour of one to the State House. Dined at Mr. Chew's with the wedding guests.³ I drank Tea there in a large circle of Ladies.

Thursday, 24.—No more States represented. Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Ross's⁴—one of my Postillion boys (Paris) being ill sent for Doctr. Jones to him.⁵

Friday, 25.—Another delegate comes in from the State of New Jersey. Made a quorum. And seven States being now represented the body was organized and I was called to the Chair by a unanimous vote. Major Jackson was appointed Secretary and a Com'ee. consisting of Mr. Wythe, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Ch. Pinkney chosen to prepare rules and regulations by which the convention should be governed. To give time for this it adjourned till Monday, 10 o'clock. Returned many visits in the forenoon and dined at Thomas Willings.⁶ Spent the evening at my quarters.

¹ Samuel Powel, who lived at 112 South Third Street, between Walnut and Spruce Streets.

² William Bingham, owner of the famous mansion on Third, near Spruce Street.

³ Miss Peggy Oswald Chew, daughter of Benjamin Chew, was married to Colonel John Eager Howard, of Maryland, May 18, 1787.

⁴ John Ross, a prominent merchant of the city.

⁵ Dr. John Jones, Health Officer of the city, who resided on Market, between Second and Third Streets.

⁶ President of the Bank of North America, who lived on Third below Walnut Street.

Saturday, 26.—Returned all my visits this forenoon where I could get an acct. of the Lodg'gs of those to whom I was indebted for theirs. Dined at a Club at the City Tavern, and spent the Evening at my quarters writing letters.

Sunday, 27.—Went to the Romish Church¹ to a high Mass. Dined, drank Tea and spent the evening at my lodgings.

Monday, 28.—Met in Convention at 10 o'clock. Two States more, viz.: Massachusetts and Connecticut being represented, made nine more on the floor; proceeded to the establishment of rules for the government of the Convention and adjourned about 2 o'clock. Dined at home. Drank Tea in a large circle at Mr. Francis'.²

Tuesday, 29.—Dined at home and went to Mr. Juhan's benefit concert at the City tavern.³ The same number of States met in the Convention as yesterday.

Wednesday, 30.—Convention as yesterday. Dined with Mr. [John] Vaughan, drank tea and spent the evening at Mr. and Mrs. John Lawrence's.⁴

Thursday, 31.—Convention representation increased by coming in of the State of Georgia, occasioned by the arrival of Maj. Pierce and Mr. Houston.⁵ Dined at Mr. Francis's and drank tea with Mrs. Meredith.⁶

¹ St. Joseph's, in Willing's Alley.

² Tench Francis, who resided at 101 Chestnut, between Third and Fourth Streets.

³ CONCERT | At the CITY TAVERN, on *Tuesday* the 29th. | Instant. Will be Performed, | Mr Juhan's Concert. | The Plan of which is as follows; | Act I. | A New Overture . . . Reinagle | Concerto Flute . . . Brown | Song . . . Sarti | Overture . . . Haydn. | Act II. | Sonata Piano Forte . . . Mr Juhan of Haydn & Reinagle | Concerto Violoncello . . . Capron | Solo Violin . . . Juhan | The Grand Overture . . . Martini. | Tickets at 7/6 each to be had at the City Tavern, and of Mr Juhan, at Mr Capron's, in Norris's Alley.—*Penna. Packet*, May 28, 1787.

⁴ Formerly mayor of the city and justice of the Colonial Supreme Court.

⁵ William Pierce and William Houston.

⁶ Mrs. Meredith resided at No. 63 N. Front, between Arch and Race Streets.

Friday, June 1.—Convention as yesterday. Dined with Mr. John Penn and spent the evening at Bush-hill at a very elegant entertainment given to a numerous company by Mr. Hamilton, the owner of it.

Saturday, 2.—Major Jenifer, coming in with powers from the State of Maryland authorizing one member to represent it, added another State, now eleven, to the convention. Dined at club at the City Tavern and spent the evening at my qrs.

Sunday, 3.—Dined at Mr. Clymer's and drank Tea there.¹

Monday, 4.—Convention as on Saturday. Dined with Gen. Mifflin, reviewed the Light Infantry Cavalry and part of the Artillery of the city and drank Tea with Mrs Cadwalader.²

Tuesday, 5.—Dined at Mr. Morris' with a large Company and spent the evening there.

Wednesday, 6.—Dined at the President's with a large Company and drank Tea there, after weh came home and wrote letters for France.

Thursday, 7.—Dined at a Club at the Indian Queen³—Drank Tea and spent the evening there.

Friday, 8.—Dined, drank Tea and spent the evening at home.

Saturday, 9.—Dined at the club at the City Tavern, drank tea, and sat till 10 o'clock at Mr. Powels.

Sunday, 10.—Breakfasted by agreement at Mr. Powels, and, in company with him, rode to see the Botanical Garden of Mr. Bartram, which, though stored with many curious Trees, Shrubs and flowers, was neither large nor laid out in much taste. From hence we rode to the farm of one Jones to see the effect of the Plaister of Paris. This appeared obvious. . . . From hence visited Mr. Powel's farm,

¹ George Clymer, who, in 1785, resided on Fourth, between Walnut and Spruce Streets.

² Mrs. Cadwalader resided on Second, between Spruce and Union Streets.

³ A famous hostelry, on Fourth above Chestnut Street. It was torn down in May of 1851.

after which I went to Mr. Morris' country seat to dinner by appointment, and returned to the city about dark.

Monday, 11.—Dined, Drank Tea and spent the evening (in my own room) at Mr. Morris's.

Tuesday, 12.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and drunk Tea there. Went afterwards to the concert at the City Tavern.¹

Wednesday, 13.—Dined at Mr. Clymers and drank Tea there—spent the evening at Mr. Bingham's.

Thursday, 14.—Dined at Maj'r Moore's² and spent the evening at my own lodgings.

Friday, 15.—Dined at Mr. Powel's and drank Tea there.

Saturday, 16.—Dined at the Club at the City Tavern and spent the evening at my own lodgings.

Sunday, 17.—Went to church, heard Bishop White preach, and see him ordain two gentlemen into the order of Deacons. After which rid eight miles into the country, dined with Mr. Jno. Ross, and returned to town again about dusk.

Monday, 18.—Dined at Quarterly meeting of the Sons of St. Patrick at the City Tavern, and drank Tea at Dr. Shippen with the party of Mrs. Livingston.³

Tuesday, 19.—Dined in a family way at Mr. Morris's and spent the evening there in a large party.

Wednesday, 20.—Dined at Mr. Meredith's and drank Tea there.

Thursday, 21.—Dined at Mr. Prager⁴ and spent the evening in my own room.

¹ Mr. Reinagle's | CONCERT | Will be performed at the City Tavern, this evening, | the 12th Instant. | Act I | Overture . . . Bach | Concerta Violoncello . . . Capron. | Song . . . Sarti | Act II | Overture . . . Andre | Concerto Violin . . . Fiorella. | Concerto Flute . . . Brown. | Act III | Overture (La Buono Figludla) . . . Picicini. | Sonata Piano Forte, . . . Reinagle. | A New Overture (in which is introduced a Scots Strathspey) . . . Reinagle. | The Concert will begin exactly a quarter before 8 o'clock | Tickets 7/6 each, to be had at the City Tavern, | and of Mr. Reinagle, in Carter's Alley.—*Penna. Packet*, June 12, 1787.

² Thomas Lloyd Moore, who lived on Pine Street.

³ Dr. William Shippen, the younger, and his daughter Anne Hume, who married Henry Beekman Livingston, of New York, March 11, 1781.

⁴ A prominent Front Street merchant.

Friday, 22.—Dined in a family way at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea at Mr. Francis Hopkinson's.¹

Saturday, 23.—Dined at Doctr Rush's and drank Tea at Mr. Morris's.

Sunday, 24.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and spent the evening at Mr. Meredith's in drinking Tea only.

Monday, 25.—Dined at Mr. Morris's. Drunk Tea there and spent the evening in my own room.

Tuesday, 26th.—Took a family dinner with Govr. Randolph and made one of a party to drink Tea at Gray's Ferry.

Wednesday, 27th.—Dined at Mr. Morris's. Drk Tea there and spent the evening in my own room.

Thursday, 28th.—Dined at Mr. Morris's in a large Compy. Drank Tea there and spent the evening in my own room.

Friday, 29.—Dined at Mr. Morris' and spent the evening at home.

Saturday, 30.—Dined at a club of gentlemen and ladies at the Cool Spring, Springsbury, and spt. the evening at home.

July (Sunday) 1.—Dined and spent the evening at home.

Monday, 2.—Dined with some of the members of Convention at the Indian Queen. Drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's and walked afterwards in the State Ho. Yard. Sat for Mr. Pine.²

Tuesday, 3.—Sat for Mr. Peale³ this morning, Dined at Mr. Morris's, Drank Tea at Mr. Powel's and went with him to the Agricultural Society at Carpenters' Hall.

Wednesday, 4th.—Visited Dr. — Aratory,⁴ Heard at the Calvinist Church an oration on the Anniversary of the Independence,⁵ Dined afterwards with this State Society of Cincinnati and drank Tea at Mr. Powel's.

¹ Judge Francis Hopkinson resided at No. 149 Sassafras, between Fourth and Fifth Streets.

² Robert Pine, artist, resided at the corner of Sixth and Market Streets.

³ Charles Wilson Peale, the artist, resided at the corner of Third and Lombard Streets.

⁴ *Query*, Rittenhouse's Orrery.

⁵ The oration was delivered by James Campbell, Esq.

Thursday, 5.—Dined at Mr. Morris's, drank Tea and spent the evening there.

Friday, 6.—Sat for Mr. Peale to draw my picture in the morning,¹ dined at the City Tavern with some gentlm. of the convention and spent the evening at home.

Saturday, 7th.—Dined at the Cold Spring with the club; returned in the evening and drank tea at Mr. Meredith's.

Sunday, 8th.—About 12 o'clock rode to Dr. Logan's, near germn Town, where I dined, returned in the evening and drk Tea at Mr. Morris's.

Monday, 9.—Sat in the morning for Mr. Peale. Dined at Mr. Morris's and drk Tea at Dr. Redman's.²

Tuesday, 10.—Dined at Mr. Morris's; drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's and went to the play.³

Wednesday, 11th.—Dined [at] Mr. Morris's and spent the evening at home.

Thursday, 12th.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea with Mrs. Livingston.

Friday, 13th.—Dined at Mr. Morris's, drank Tea there and spent the evening.

Saturday, 14th.—Dined at the Cold Spring Club and went to the play in the afternoon.⁴

¹The *Penna. Packet* of September 18 announces: "A Mezzotinto Print of His Excellency General Washington done by Charles Wilson Peale of Philadelphia, from a portrait which he has painted since the sitting of the Convention is now completed: the likeness is esteemed the best that has been executed in a print." The first plate of Washington engraved by Peale was in 1777, the second in 1780, and the third, the one above announced.

²Dr. John Redman resided No. 42 North Second, between Arch and Market Streets.

³SPECTACULUM VITÆ. | At the Opera House in Southwark. | This Evening the 10 July, | Will be performed | A Concert, | In the First Part of which will be introduced an Entertainment, called the | Detection: | or, the Servants Hall in an Uproar. | To which will be added—A Comic Opera, | in two Acts called | Love in a Camp, | or Patrick in Prussia &c &c.

⁴The performance consisted of a concert, in which was introduced an opera called "The Tempest, or the Inchaunted Island," and a "Grand Masque of Neptune & Amphitrite."

Sunday, 15.—Dined at Mr. Morris's & remained there all afternoon.

Monday, 16.—Dined at Mr. Morris's & drank Tea at Mr. Powell's.

Tuesday, 17.—Dined at Mr. House's & made an excursion with a party to Gray's Ferry to Tea.

Wednesday, 18.—Dined at Mr. Milligan's¹ and drank Tea at Mr. Meredith's.

Thursday, 19.—Dined at Mr. John Penn's (the younger), drank Tea and spent the evening at home.

Friday, 20.—Dined at home and drank Tea at Mr. Clymer's.

Saturday, 21.—Dined at the Cold Spring Club and went to the play in the afternoon.²

Sunday, 22d.—Left town by 5 o'clock, breakfasted at General Mifflin's, rode up to the Spring Mills and returned to General Mifflin's to dinner, after which came to the city.

Monday, 23.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea at Lansdown, the country seat of Mr. Jno. Penn, returned in the evening.

Tuesday, 24.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea at Doctor Rush's.

Wednesday, 25.—Dined at Mr. Morris's, drank Tea and spent the evening at home.

Thursday, 26.—Dined at Mr. Morris's, drank Tea there. I stayed within all the afternoon.

Friday, 27.—Dined at Mr. Morris's drank Tea at Mr. Powell's.

Saturday, 28th.—Dined at the Cold Spring Club, and after drank tea there—returned to Mr. Morris's and spent the evening there.

¹ Robert Milligan, attorney-at-law, residing on Chestnut, between Third and Fourth Streets.

² At the Southwark Opera-House a concert was given, and between the parts a "Moral Poem, called the Crusade, or the Generous Sultan," by Mr. James Thomson, was recited, with the "Original Epilogue To Edward & Eleonora."

Sunday, 29th.—Dined and spent the whole day at Mr. Morris's.

Monday, 30.—In Company with Mr. Gouvern'r Morris went into the neighborhood of the Valley Forge, to a Widow Moore's, a fishing, at whose house we lodged.¹

Tuesday, 31.—Before breakfast I rode to the Valley Forge and over the whole cantonment and works of the American Army in the winter of 1777-8, and on my return to the Widow Moore's found Mr. and Mrs. Rob. Morris. Spent the day there, fishing, etc., and lodged at the same place.

Wednesday, Augt 1st.—Returned at 11 o'clock with the above Company to Philadelphia. [Here follows in the MS. a page on the treatment of wheat.]

Thursday, 2.—Dined at Mr. Morris's, drank Tea and spent the evening there.

Friday, 3d.—Went up to Trenton on a fishing party with Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Morris, and Mr. and Mrs. Govr. Morris. Dined and lodged at Col. Sam Ogden's. In the evening fished.

Saturday, 4th.—In the morning between breakfast and dinner, fished. Dined at General [Philemon] Dickinson's and returned in the evening to Col. Ogden's.

Sunday, 5th.—Dined at Col. Ogden's and about 4 o'clock set out for Philadelpa. Halted an hour at Bristol and reached the city before 9 o'clock.

Monday, 6.—Again met in convention agreeably to adjournment and read the report of the comee. Dined at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea at Mr. Meredith's.

Tuesday, 7.—Dined at Mr. Morris's and drank Tea nowhere. Spent the evening at home.

Wednesday, 8th.—Dined at the City Tavern and remained there till near 10 o'clock.

Thursday, 9th.—Dined at Mr. [John] Swanwick's and spent the evening in my own room, reading letters & accts from home.

¹ At Moore Hall, in Chester County, the seat of the late William Moore, consisting of an estate of upwards of six hundred acres, and large and commodious mansion, barns, stables, and offices.

Friday, 10th.—Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's; spent the evening at home.

Saturday, 11th.—Dined at the Cold Spring Club, and after Tea returned & spent the evening at home.

Sunday, 12.—Dined at Bush-hill with Mr. William Hamilton; spent the evening at home writing.

Monday, 13th.—Dined at home and drank Tea with Mr. Bache at the President's.

Tuesday, 14th.—Dined and drank Tea at home.

Wednesday, 15.—Did the same.

Thursday, 16.—Dined at Mr. Pollock's¹ & spent the evening at my own room.

Friday, 17.—Dined and drank Tea at Mr. Powel's.

Saturday, 18.—Dined at Chief Justice McKean's and spent the evening at home.

Sunday, 19.—In company with Mr. Powel rode up to the White Marsh—dined at German Town—drank Tea at Mr. Peters and returned home in the evening.

Monday, 20.—Dined and drank Tea at home.

Tuesday, 21.—Did the same.

Wednesday, 22.—Dined at the Hills, Mr. Morris's, and visited at Mr. Powels in the evening.

Thursday, 23d.—Dined at home and drank tea there.

Friday 24.—Dined at home.

Saturday, 25.—Dined at the Club and spent the evening at home.

Sunday, 26.—Rode into the country 8 or 10 miles and dined with Mr. Morris at the Hills and spent the evening writing letters.

Monday, 27.—Dined at Mr. Morris' and drank Tea at Mr. Powel's.

Tuesday, 28th.—Dined at home and drank Tea there.

Wednesday, 29.—Did the same.

Thursday, 30th.—Did the same.

Friday, 31st.—Dined at home and in company with others went into the country and drank Tea with Mr. Penn.

Saturday, Sept. 1.—Dined at home and drank Tea there.

¹ Oliver Pollock, attorney-at-law.

Sunday, 2d.—Rode to Mr. Bartram's and other places in the country and dined & drank Tea at Mr. Gray's.

Monday, 3.—Dined and drank Tea at home.

Tuesday, 4th.—Dined and did the same after visiting a machine at Dr. Franklin's for smoothing clothes instead of ironing of them. . . .

Wednesday, 5.—Dined at Mr. House's and drank Tea at Mr. Bingham's.

Thursday, 6th.—Dined at Doctr Hutchinson's¹ and spent the afternoon and evening at home.

Friday, 7.—Dined and spent the afternoon at home (except whilst riding a few miles).

Saturday, 8.—Dined at the Cold Spring Club and spent the afternoon at home.

Sunday, 9.—Dined at home, after paying a visit to Mr. Gardogne (Minister from Spain), who had come from New York on a visit to me.

Monday, 10th.—Dined at home and drank Tea there.

Tuesday, 11th.—Dined at home in a large company and drank Tea and spent the evening there.

Wednesday, 12th.—Dined at the President's and drank tea at Mr. Pines.

Thursday, 13.—Dined at the Vice President's, Chs. Bidle's, and drank Tea at Mr. Powel's.

Friday, 14.—Dined at the City Tavern at an entertainment given on my account by the City Troop of Light Horse.² Spent the evening at Mr. Meridith's.

Saturday, 15.—Finished the Business of the Convention all to signing the proceedings, to do which the House set till 6 o'clock. Spent the evening at my lodgings.

Sunday, 16.—Wrote many letters in the forenoon, dined with Mr. and [Mrs.] Morris at the Hills and returned to town in the evening.

Monday, 17.—Met in Convention and signed the proceed-

¹ Dr. James Hutchinson resided at No. 155 South Second, between Walnut and Spruce Streets.

² Refer "History of the First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry," p. 33, and Appendix.

ings, all except Govr. Randolph, Colo. Mason and Mr. Gerry. Dined all together at the City Tavern and returned to my lodgings.

Tuesday, 18.—Finished what private business I had to do this forenoon. Dined at 1 o'clock at Mr. Morris's, and set off afterwards in Company with Mr. [John] Blair, who took a seat in my chariot with me on my return home; reached Chester, where we lodged.

Wednesday, 19.—Prevented by rain, much of weh fell in the night, from setting off early, baited at Wilmington, dined at Christiana bridge and lodged at head of Elk, at the bridge, near which I narrowly escaped an ugly accidt to my chariot and horses. One fell through and another, with the chariot, was on the point of following, but by exertion was saved.

Thursday, 20.—Sett off after an early breakfast, crossed the Susquehanna and dined in Havre de grass and lodged at Skirrett's Tavern.

Friday, 21st.—Breakfasted in Baltimore. Dined at the Widow Ball's, formerly Spurrier's¹ and lodged at Maj'r Snowden's.

Saturday, 22d.—Breakfasted at Bladensburgh. Passed thro Georgetown. Dined at Alexandria and reached home by sunset, after being absent 4 months and 14 days.

¹ Better known as "Mrs. Ball's Coffee-House."

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